

Greetings:

As returning Chair of the Youth Justice Council, I take pleasure in presenting our Annual Report summarizing the activities of the Council and the programs funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title II Formula Block Grant, Title V Formula Block Grant, and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant. Data tracking the progression of juvenile delinquency prevention and accountability efforts in Montana is also included in this report.

Montana continues to provide local and state agency leadership and direction in supporting programs that provide prevention, intervention, accountability, and restorative justice best practices as identified by OJJDP. These efforts continue to decrease delinquency and recidivism as well as provide an environment for rehabilitation. As Montana's Youth continue to struggle with mental health issues, neglect, violence, and chemical dependency, the Youth Justice Council will continue our vigilance in sustaining programs that serve youth and their families as they make positive changes in their lives.

Montana has officially been invited to join the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) efforts. The Montana Board of Crime Control was awarded \$50,000 to contribute to starting JDAI sites in Hill, Missoula, and Cascade counties. Annie E. Casey is sending representatives to each of the three counties to help assess JDAI issues and to hold a kickoff meeting in 2008. This invitation is an honor and a great opportunity as Montana continues to address JDAI issues.

Youth members of the Council have committed to promoting the Do the Write Thing Challenge to middle school students around the state. This writing challenge gives Montana middle school students a voice to address youth violence and what they can do to stop it. This program is sponsored by the Kuwait America Foundation and supported through Title II grant monies. This project has given the youth members of the Council an active voice in Montana as well. Chantelle Gournay, a Youth Justice Council member from Helena High School, is the youngest Chair of the Kuwait America Foundation/ National Campaign to Stop Violence. The Council applauds and supports the efforts of our youth members as they reach out to Montana's youth in one voice against violence.

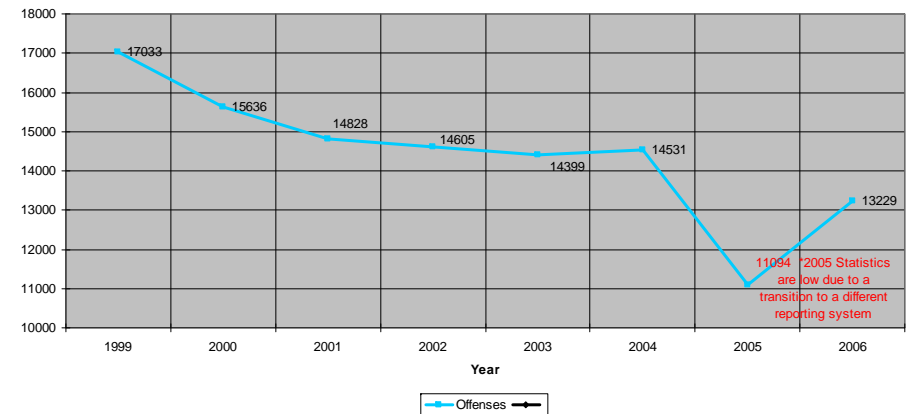
As Montana moves forward to address juvenile justice issues, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Youth Justice Council, Montana Board of Crime Control, and dedicated community leaders for volunteering their valuable time and experience to help make a quantifiable difference for Montana's children.

Sincerely,

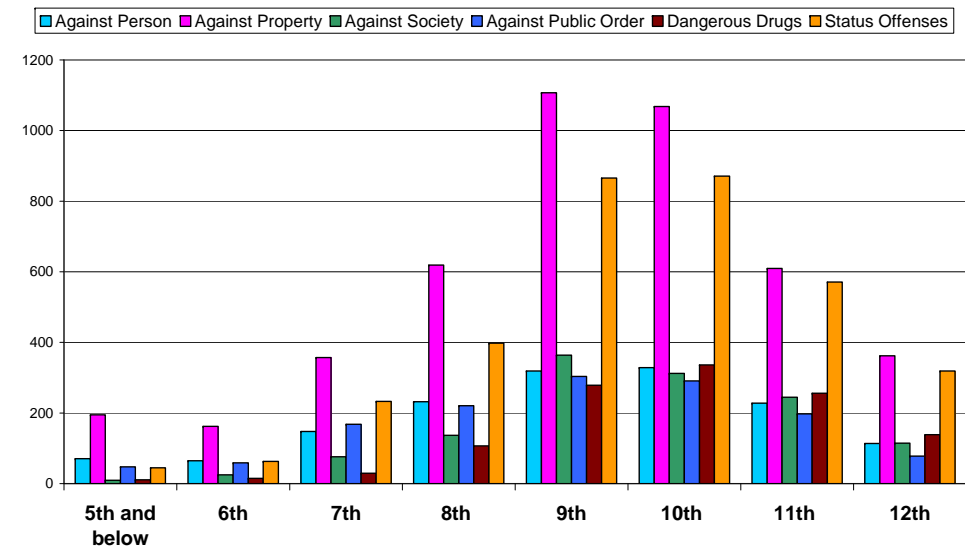


Mayor, Pamela B. Kennedy

Juvenile Offense Trends 1999-2006
(Juvenile Courts Assessment and Tracking System Data, Office of Supreme Court Administration, Juvenile Probation)



Grade Level by Offense Category -- 2006



Source: Juvenile Courts Accountability Tracking System. Office of the Montana Supreme Court. Juvenile Probation Office.

The preceding chart shows the types of crimes that are committed by 5th-12th grade juveniles. A significant spike in numbers of crimes is noted in 7th through 9th grade with a steady decrease thereafter. This shows a critical need for prevention programs at the pre-junior high and junior high level.

Programs and Priorities

2007 Title II Formula Funding

- ☐ JDAI Missoula CO 4th Judicial Dist-Missoula County
- ☐ Hill County Alternatives to Detention-Hill County
- ☐ Juvenile Detention Alternatives-Cascade County
- ☐ Restoring Youth in Our Community-Bozeman
- ☐ CRJ's Balanced and Restorative Justice-Missoula
- ☐ Storytelling for Empowerment-Townsend Schools
- ☐ Storytelling for Empowerment-Flathead Reservation/Lake County
- ☐ MT 7th Judicial District Youth Treatment Court-Sidney
- ☐ Youth Quest-Anaconda PCA Family Resource
- ☐ Truancy Intervention Program-Montana Youth Homes Inc Helena
- ☐ Planning for the Future DMC-Alliance for Youth Great Falls
- ☐ Central Montana KIDS Project-Juvenile Probation-10th Judicial
- ☐ Sacred Hoops Journey-Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
- ☐ Decreasing Truancy through Collaboration-Crow Tribe
- ☐ Truancy Intervention Program-Anaconda

2007 Title V Formula Funding

- ☐ Children of Incarcerated Parents-Yellowstone CO 13th Judicial
- ☐ Children of Incarcerated Parents-Montana Department of Corrections

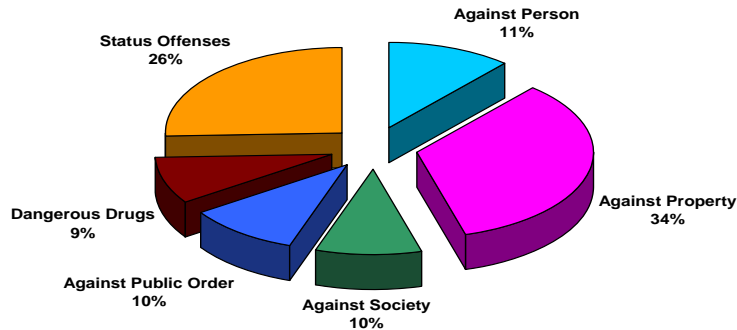
2007 Juvenile Accountability Block Grants

- ☐ Concentrated Supervision Program-Montana 17th Judicial District (Phillips, Blaine, and Valley Counties)
- ☐ Parenting Wisely-Cascade County
- ☐ City of Conrad Community Services Program-City of Conrad
- ☐ Community Service Supervision/Probation-Dawson Co 7th Judicial
- ☐ Tri-County Juvenile Accountability Project-Sheridan County
- ☐ Accountability Enforcement Program-Flathead County
- ☐ Juvenile Accountability Management Program-Madison County
- ☐ Juvenile Accountability-Meagher County
- ☐ Juvenile Accountability -Program-Poplar Police Department
- ☐ Juvenile Accountability-Missoula Co 4th Judicial

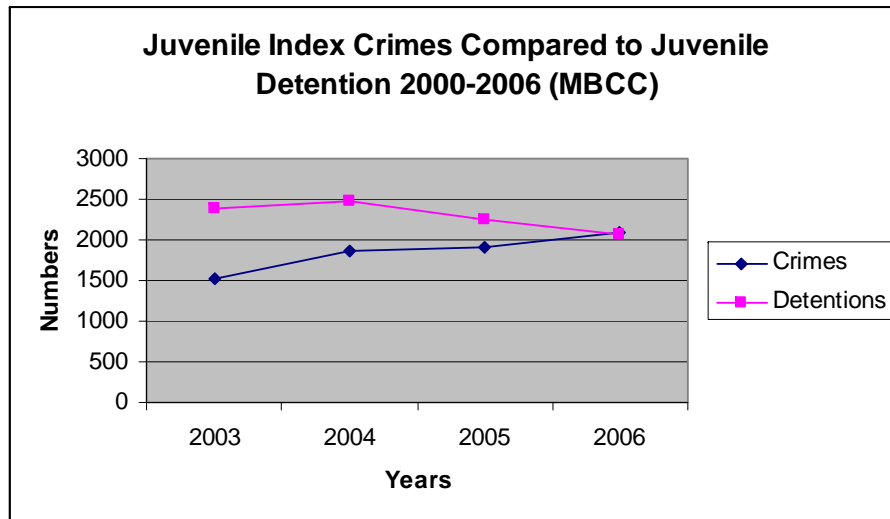
The Youth Justice Council

- ☐ Develops annual plans to implement the objectives of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) and to promote the development of an effective and coordinated juvenile justice system in the State of Montana.
- ☐ Consults on funding for grant applications pursuant to the JJDP Act in a manner consistent with the State's three Year Plan and forwards funding recommendations to the Board of Crime Control.

Offense Category as Percentage of all Offenses -- 2006



Source: Juvenile Courts Accountability Tracking System. Office of the Montana Supreme Court. Juvenile Probation Office
The above chart is a breakdown of crimes committed by 5th -12th graders.



Data sources: Index Crimes from MBCC Montana Incident Based Reporting System and Detentions from MBCC Juvenile Detention Reporting System

The above line graph indicates that there has been a steady increase in youth index crimes over the past year. In the meantime there has been a corresponding decrease in the use of juvenile detention.

- ❑ Advises the Governor, the legislature and the MBCC on Juvenile Justice matters and performs other duties as assigned by the Governor, Legislature and MBCC.

YJC Members:

Mayor, Pam Kennedy-Chair	Joy Mariska	Katie Yother
Penny Kipp	Father Jerry Lowney	Dale Four Bear
Donna Falls-Down	Chantelle Gournay	Ted Lechner
Wayne Stanford	Jennifer Kistler	Teri Young
Tara Houde	Kim Miller	Dennis Dronen
Rosie Buzzas	Hon. Pedro Hernandez	

Core Requirements:

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 compels states to staff a Youth Justice Council, Juvenile Justice Specialist, and comply with the 4 core requirements in order to be eligible to receive federal funding.

The Four Core Requirements:

- ❑ Deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders (**DSO**)
- ❑ Elimination of detention or confinement of juveniles in adult jails and lockups in urban areas and strictly limits youth confinement in adult jails and lockups in rural areas (**Removal**)
- ❑ Sight and sound separation of juveniles from adults in secure facilities (**Separation**)
- ❑ Reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile minority members who come into contact with the juvenile justice system (**DMC**)

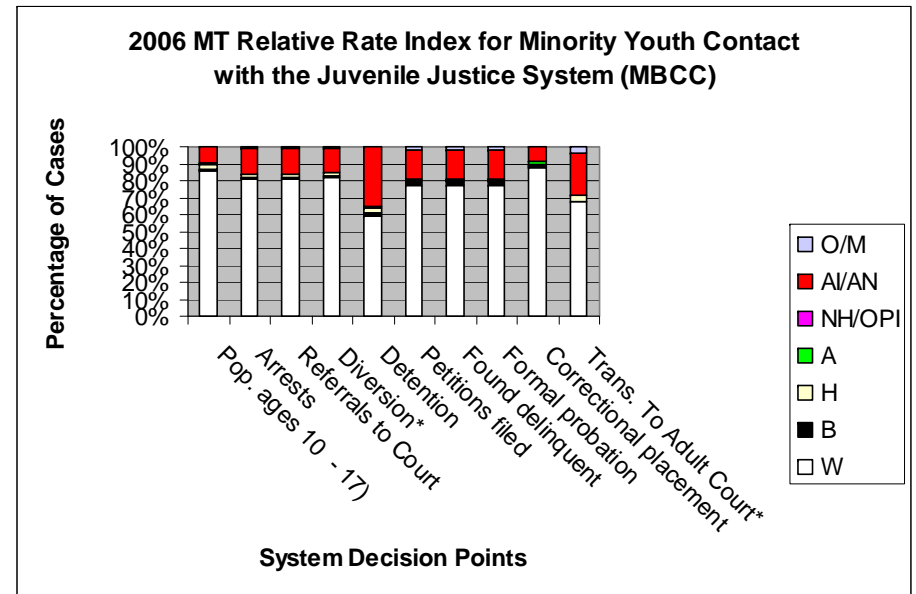
Juvenile Justice Planning and Compliance Monitoring

As the designated Statewide Planning Agency, the Montana Board of Crime Control must report compliance with the four core requirements (listed above) of the JJDP Act to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention annually.

For disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system, states must complete a Relative Rate Index (RRI) to determine if any minority populations over 1% of the general population are disproportionately represented at key decision points in the juvenile justice system. DMC among identified populations must be assessed, addressed and monitored. The following chart, based on Montana's Relative Rate Index (RRI), shows which minority populations are disproportionately represented at the decision points in our juvenile justice system. The first column reflects race/ethnicity as a proportion of the general population. All of the columns should reflect that same proportion if DMC is not an issue. Where the proportion exceeds or is less than the first column, DMC exists. Except for American Indian/Alaskan Native youth, Montana's small numbers render this type of analysis as statistically unreliable for the last three decision points.

Data Notes for RRI Graph

1. Diversion includes cases dismissed or placed on informal probation
2. Transfers to adult court does not include youth directly filed into adult court.
3. This graph is not comparable to the 2004 RRI Chart included in the previous Youth Justice Advisory Council's Report to the Governor and Montana State Legislature because the parameters defining each stage's data has since been modified.
4. All minority populations, except American Indian/Alaskan Native are too small for the chart to be accurate for the last three decision points.



Based on the results of an analysis of detention placements, Title II funding of \$10,000 was awarded to each of three pilot sites to implement the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) reform. The three sites are Havre, Hill County; Missoula, Missoula County; and Great Falls, Cascade County. JDAI is the only program proven to reduce DMC in detention. Montana was awarded an official invitation to join the Annie E. Casey Foundation JDAI efforts nationwide. Acceptance of that invitation provided a grant of an additional \$50,000 to further JDAI efforts statewide.

A team from the Annie E Casey Foundation will visit February 4-7, 2008 to hold a stakeholder's meeting and assess the three pilot sites to determine how detention is utilized, the current philosophy for detention, and programs for alternative placement. The goal of the assessment is to interview all of the site stakeholders and to come up with a work plan for implementing JDAI at each site. To be an official Annie E. Casey Foundation JDAI site is a huge step in the right direction to furthering JDAI efforts in Montana and addressing DMC.

To demonstrate compliance with the other core requirements, Montana must maintain a monitoring plan and system that meets federal requirements. Failure to report and/or comply with the four core requirements of the Act may result in the loss of federal funding dedicated to delinquency prevention, juvenile accountability and improvements to the juvenile justice system.

- ❑ For calendar year 2006 Montana had with 41 violations of the Montana Youth Court Act or JJDP Act out of 2236 detentions for a Compliance rate of 98.17% (or violation rate of 1.83%.)
- ❑ Development of a new web-based Compliance database, Juvenile Detention Reporting System (JDRS) came on line in April 2007.
- ❑ Training was provided to all juvenile detention facility administrators on use of JDRS as well as an optional unified case management system.
- ❑ Due to a change in federal interpretation of the JJDP Act, the number of Montana facilities to be monitored expanded by 54 facilities for a 42% increase in 2007.
- ❑ July 1, 2007 the field monitors commenced onsite visits in accordance with the contracted monitoring schedule.
- ❑ Staff responds daily to compliance questions from the field and monitors detention data for compliance violations as data is input to the JDRS.
- ❑ Staff responds immediately to violations, providing technical assistance and onsite training as needed to rectify the situation that resulted in a violation.

Do the Write Thing Challenge

One of the projects the youth members of the Youth Justice Council have committed to promoting is the Kuwait America Foundation, National Campaign to Stop Violence, Do the Write Thing Challenge. The Do the Write Thing Challenge is a writing contest for 7th and 8th grade students to examine the impact of youth violence on their lives. The students are encouraged to take a voice regarding youth violence by identifying how it has affected their lives and what they can do about it. It is a Challenge at a critical transition time in their lives to take a stand and a voice against violence.

This Challenge originated as a response from Kuwait businessmen after the United States helped to liberate Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Kuwait's citizens were grateful to the United States of America for their efforts and sacrifices in restoring their freedom. They formed the Kuwait America Foundation. The most poignant affect from the war in Kuwait, for Kuwaiti citizens, was the impact that the violence had on Kuwait's children. Kuwaiti children had never experienced violence of this capacity before and many literally became orphans overnight. The Kuwait America Foundation wanted to sponsor a challenge that would help empower children to take a voice against violence in the United States. Thus, the Do the Write Thing Challenge came to be.

This is Montana's first year of participation in the Challenge. The top ten writing finalists from throughout the state will be honored at a banquet on April 12, 2008 in Helena and the writings will be bound and published. The review committee will designate two national finalists, one boy and one girl, from the state that submit the most thought provoking entries. The two finalists along with their teachers and one parent or guardian and two members of the Youth Justice Council will be invited by the National Campaign to Stop Violence to attend the Do the Write Thing Challenge National Recognition Week activities in Washington, DC July 19-23, 2008. At this event the state finalists will have the opportunity to share their writings with Congress. Their writings will be bound and placed in the Library of Congress, and they will attend a dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Kuwait. The funding for this trip is provided by The Kuwait America Foundation and a grant proposal submitted by the youth members of the Youth Justice Council for reverted Title II funds.